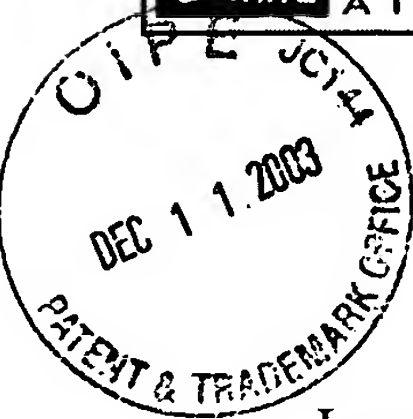


12/12/03
image:

1712



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A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
BALLARD, David A. *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/026,063

Confirmation No.: 8576

Filed: December 19, 2001

For:

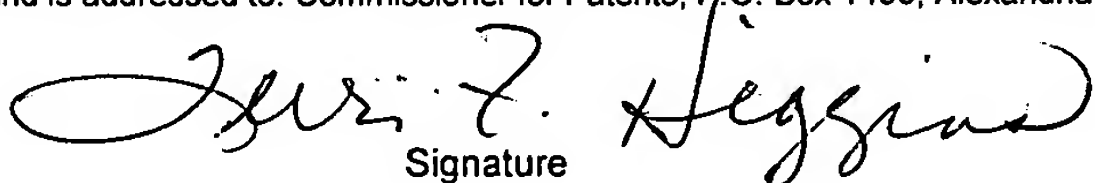
Group Art Unit: 1712

Examiner: Tucker, Philip

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11836.0727.NPUS00
MIDR:727

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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 Signature	

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed September 11, 2003 for which the three-month date for response is December 11, 2003. This response is being submitted in the revised amendment format pursuant to the provisions contained in the Notice signed January 31, 2003.

As this response is timely, no fees are believed to be due. However, should the Commissioner determine that any other fees are necessary regarding this application, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fee from Deposit Account No. 01-2508, Order No. 11836.0727.NPUS00.